



# Office of the Sheriff

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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Phone (805) 684-4561

**Isla Vista**  
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Lompoc, CA 93436  
Phone (805) 737-7737

**New Cuyama**  
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New Cuyama, CA 93254  
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**Sheriff - Coroner Office**  
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Phone (805) 681-4145

**Main Jail**  
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### COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

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**Santa Maria**  
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### HEADQUARTERS

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**BILL BROWN**

Sheriff - Coroner

**BERNARD MELEKIAN**

Undersheriff

January 12, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

### **RE: Comment on *Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services* – Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (WC Docket No. 12-375)**

Dear Madam Secretary:

As the Sheriff of Santa Barbara County, I am writing to provide comment on the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Second Further Notice) as it relates to reforming inmate calling services (ICS).

To begin, I respect the Commission's desire to ensure that inmates and their families are not hindered from contacting family members due to the cost of the phone calls. In our provision of inmate calling services, we work hard to ensure the costs of calls are reasonable and fairly applied.

I am extremely concerned that any decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to eliminate site commissions will have a profoundly negative and potentially devastating impact on our ability to provide mandated and meaningful inmate programs and services designed to assist inmates and improve their chance at rehabilitation.

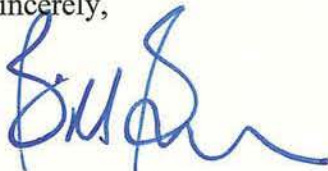
As required by California Law, all revenues received from the operation of inmate calling services are placed directly into the Inmate Welfare Fund and expended primarily for the benefit, education, and welfare of inmates confined within our jail. This fund is the only source of funding for our inmate programs.

In addition to the mandated inmate education programs, the Santa Barbara County Jail provides an extraordinarily effective substance abuse education and treatment program. Our Sheriff's Treatment Program is a highly regarded and recognized program. We continue to work towards providing evidence based education and treatment, designed to assist the inmates in addressing their addictions and making positive behavioral changes to enhance their ability to transition successfully from the jail back into the community, and ultimately, to reduce recidivism. To this end, we have worked with the National Institute of Corrections under the Transitions from Jails to Community technical assistance grant received in 2012.

Should we lose the ability to collect revenues from the inmate calling services provided at our facilities, budget cuts would inevitably be required in mandated areas of programming. Additionally, our ability to provide the Sheriff's Treatment Program would be threatened. In short, inmates and their families, and our community as a whole, would be negatively impacted by this action that, ostensibly, would be taken for the inmates' benefit.

I urge you, in the strongest possible way, to reconsider the actions contemplated in the Second Further Notice. Such actions would have a number of unintended yet devastating consequences that would threaten public safety and curtail our ability to help jail inmates successfully return to the community.

Sincerely,



BILL BROWN  
Sheriff – Coroner